Collection of Money by Business Centres

1704. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Business Centres in Chandrapur (Maharashtra) are collecting huge sum from customers for providing telecommunication services such as telephones with STD facilities and they are neither providing such telephones nor returning the amount collected from the customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether M/s Bhavana Business Centre, Chandrapur cheated huge sum of money from residents of Chandrapur (M.S.); and

(d) if so, whether Government would take any action against the said Business Centre and direct them to refund the money to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No Business Centre in Chandrapur is authorized by BSNL for collecting any sum from any customer on account of providing telephone with STD facility. Also there is no complaint received of this nature till date.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) M/s Bhavana Business Centre, Chandrapur is not a BSNL authorized business center. Also, no complaint of this nature is received so far.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Penalty of Reliance Company

†1705. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether orders have been issued by TRAI against the Reliance Company for payment of licence fee including penalty for not obtaining licence for mobile service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what further action is being taken against the Reliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has accepted the expert view of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to charge interest at penal rate from M/s. Reliance. Accordingly, M/s. Reliance has paid an amount of Rs. 525.24 crores.

Illegal Withdrawal of Money from the Saving Bank

1706. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that postal staff in some post offices in Jharkhand have fraudulently withdrawn money from the saving bank and other accounts of the small depositors, maintained in those post offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a thorough inquiry in the matter has been held;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) if no inquiry has so far been held, by when the same would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 171 cases of fraudulently withdrawn money have come to notice in 20 Post offices in Jharkhand involving an amount of Rs. 25,85,156.75

(c) Yes, Sir.